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Nashville, TN 37201-3300

August 6, 2003

Hon. Ron Jones, Hearing Officer
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Director Jones:

The purpose of this letter is to request, on behalf of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Rural Coalition consisting of the Independent Telephone Companies and Cooperatives, that the Hearing Officer enter an order continuing to hold BellSouth's *Petition for Reconsideration* in abeyance for an additional 60 days in order to allow the parties additional time to continue renegotiating the toll settlement agreement (Primary Carrier Plan). We anticipate that further negotiations will be beneficial to all parties with the continued analysis of the existing proposal. Both BellSouth and the Rural Coalition believe that these negotiations continue to be productive. In the event that either BellSouth or the Rural Coalition believes that an impasse has been reached, we will notify you.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Rural Coalition

By: Charlie Howorth
Charles L. Howorth, Jr.
Vice President - Regulatory

By: Bruce Mottern by permission
Bruce Mottern
TDS Telecom on behalf of the
Rural Coalition *CHH*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 6, 2003, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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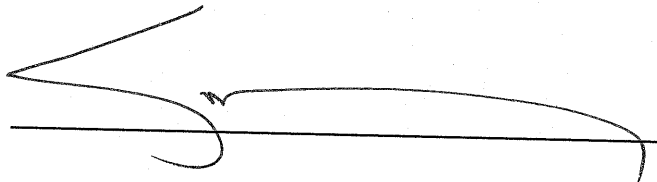
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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' or 'L' shape followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.